

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: May 18, 2005

Division: BOCC1

Bulk Item: Yes X No     

Department: BOCC1

Staff Contact Person: Jana Johnson-Willi

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**AGENDA ITEM WORDING:** Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners, Monroe County, Florida in recognition of the passing of the Honorable Wilhelmina G. Harvey, Mayor Emeritus, Monroe County Florida.

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**ITEM BACKGROUND:**

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**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:**

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**CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:**

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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**TOTAL COST:** N/A

**BUDGETED:** Yes      No     

**COST TO COUNTY:**                     

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:**                     

**REVENUE PRODUCING:** Yes      No      **AMOUNT PER MONTH**      **Year**     

**APPROVED BY:** County Atty      OMB/Purchasing      Risk Management     

**DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL:** *Dixie M. Spehar*  
Dixie M. Spehar, Mayor

**DOCUMENTATION:** Included      Not Required     

**DISPOSITION:**                                     

**AGENDA ITEM #**

Mayor Dixie M. Spehar

Resolution No. -2005

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY IN  
RECOGNITION OF THE LATE WILHELMINA GOEHRING HARVEY**



**WHEREAS,** Wilhelmina G. Harvey, Mayor Emeritus and grande dame of Monroe County, sometimes stylized as the queen Conch of the County, passed away on May 3, 2005; and

**WHEREAS,** Wilhelmina G. Harvey often accentuated the second syllable of her name, reminding people of her "Wild Willie" days of growing up in Key West, which she never really relinquished through all the years she served the citizens as a member of the School Board and then as a County Commissioner from 1980 to 2000 with only a two-year hiatus, always fighting for the people she loved so much; and

**WHEREAS,** Wilhelmina had a tenacity and zest for life which enabled her to accomplish much more than can be mentioned in a few pages; and

**WHEREAS,** every person who knew Wilhelmina will always treasure their memories of "Willie;" and

**WHEREAS,** the community mourns her loss; now therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA:**



**Section 1:** Hereby adopts this Resolution as an expression to the family of their deepest sympathy in the passing of the late Wilhelmina G. Harvey.

**Section 2:** Hereby recognizes and honors Wilhelmina for her unfailing devotion to her community and her great strength of character as exemplified by the following:

Wilhelmina, born to a railroad engineer and his wife on February 7, 1912, in Key West, worked in her step-father Andrew Page's Duval Street drugstore at age 16, received a teaching degree from Florida State Women's College in Tallahassee at a time when very few women received a college education, became one of the school's first football recruiters when it became the co-educational Florida State University, married C.B. Harvey in 1936 and lived with him in the late 1930's and early 1940's in Oregon and Washington, D.C., returning to Key West in the 1940's when she and her husband were both employed by the Navy base;

Wilhelmina was active in her husband's 1949 campaign for the Key West City Commission, entertained and met with presidents and other government officials as "First Lady" of Key West during C.B.'s term as mayor of Key West, and eventually became actively involved as a political figure in her own right, getting elected to the School Board, and, in 1980, being elected to the County Commission, a post she held until 2000, except for 1986-1987 when she ran for State representative, and became the first female mayor of the County, being re-elected by her fellow commissioners numerous times during her long service on that governing board;

Wilhelmina was well known to the locals as a commissioner who would fight for the rights of, and benefits to, the general public, always insisting on such things as preserving access to water for residents without waterfront property, and championing the causes of the "underdog," while many still remember the County Commission meeting at which she convinced a fellow commissioner through her public discussion that she would be voting a certain way which caused him to enter a vote he asked to change after wily Willie voted the opposite of her fellow commissioner's expectations;

One of Wilhelmina's most treasured memories was her meeting with Queen Elizabeth in the Dry Tortugas in the 1990's, when she presented England's ruler with a Conch shell, but always regretted her omission in not telling the Queen that the shell must remain outside as Windsor Palace suffered a devastating fire not long after the presentation, and sent the Queen an apology for not warning her of the local superstition that the shell should be placed outside the door;

Wilhelmina was extremely active in all aspects of community activities, such as being crowned in 2001 as Queen of Fantasy Fest as a result of her campaigning for donations for AIDS Help, and serving as Admiral in the naval Battle for the Conch Republic in 1982, which position she continued in ensuing years' re-enactments;

An exhibit of Willie memorabilia, acquired during the many years she supported non-profit organizations like Habitat for Humanity and promoted the arts, can be seen at the Customs House on Front Street.



**Section 3:** Hereby directs the Clerk to forward to the family of Wilhelmina G. Harvey a copy of this Resolution expressing the Board's sorrow.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at a meeting of said Board held on the 18th day of May, A.D., 2005.

Mayor Dixie M. Spehar \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Pro Tem Charles "Sonny" McCoy \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner George Neugent \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner David P. Rice \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Murray E. Nelson \_\_\_\_\_

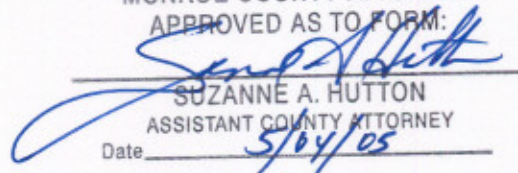
(SEAL)  
Attest: DANNY L. KOLHAGE, Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

MONROE COUNTY ATTORNEY  
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
SUZANNE A. HUTTON  
ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY  
Date 5/14/05